

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Patent of the United States is a composition that embodies:

1. A topical composition containing an elastin peptide of the general formula (GXXPG)*n* and in particular the sequences of (VGVAPG)*n* ,and/or (GVAPGV)*n*,
5 and/or (VAPGVG)*n* and/or (APGVGV)*n* and or (PGVGVA)*n* and/or (GVGVAP)*n* and a galactoside.

wherein

- a. A is a peptide-forming residue of L-alanine;
b. G is a peptide-forming residue of glycine
10 c. P is a peptide-forming residue of L-proline
d. V is a peptide-forming residue of L-valine
e. X is a peptide-forming residue of a single unspecified amino acid

Peptide representations in this application conform to the standard practice of writing the NH₂-terminal amino acid residue at the left of the formula and the CO₂ H-
15 terminal amino acid residue at the right.

2. A method of modulating the effect of the elastin peptide on the production of Matrix Metalloproteinases and other collagenolytic and elastinolytic enzymes by the addition of galactosugar-bearing moieties such as but not limited to Lactose or Melibiose.
- 20 3. A method for cosmetically treating skin by direct application of an effective amount of the composition of claim 1 and claim 2 to an area of skin in need thereof.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the cosmetic treatment of skin reduces wrinkles in the skin, reduces evidence of photodamage to the skin, increases water content in
25 the skin, smoothes the skin, reduces skin discoloration, reduces signs of aging in the skin.
5. A method of claim 3 wherein the composition of claim 1 act to attract fibroblasts into the dermis in the area of application. (chemotaxis)
6. A method of claim 3 wherein the composition of claim 1 stimulates the
30 production of enzymes capable of dissolving otherwise insoluble and cross-linked collagen and elastin fibrils.

7. A method of claim 3 wherein the composition of claim 1 acts to stimulate the production of proteins, glycoproteins, glycosaminoglycans and hyaluronin by skin fibroblasts.
- 5 8. A method of claim 3 wherein the composition of claim 1 stimulates the production of tropoelastin and elastin by skin fibroblasts
9. A method of claim 3 wherein the composition of claim1 stimulates the production of tropocollagen and collagen.
- 10 10. A method of claim 3 wherein the composition of claim 1 and claim 2 modulates and reduces the production of certain matrix metalloproteinases, elastin-type serine endopeptidase, elastase and cathepsin G thus allowing for the net increase of elastin, collagen, glycosaminoglycans and hyaluronin.